

13 November 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR:

[redacted]
Chief, Management and Planning Group, IMS/DO

FROM:

J. Kenneth McDonald
Chief, DCI History Staff

SUBJECT:

Department of the Army Request for Information on Four
Non-U.S. Members of the "Rome Organization," 1944

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1. Military Operations, Department of the Army, has asked for CIA's help in finding information about four foreign nationals who have been recommended for retrospective U.S. recognition as members of the World War II "Rome Organization" that helped Allied (including American) soldiers behind German lines in Italy in 1943-44.

2. The thick Army file on this case that I left with you last Friday (and which the Army would like back when we respond) probably gives us a lot more information than we need. For our purposes, the relevant facts seem to be that the four individuals listed below were members of the British-led "Rome Organization", which helped at least 185 American escaped P.O.W.s in German-occupied Italy, and which may have worked or had contact with OSS there. With respect to their qualifications for an American decoration, the Army would like any information the Agency may have from OSS files about any or all of the following four members of the Rome Organization:

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3. As the first half of the Army file indicates, Mr. William C. Simpson, in organizing a "Rome Organization" reunion as part of celebrations last June of Rome's World War II liberation, proposed to the American Ambassador in Rome that these four be given U.S. awards. The last half of the file is an October 1944 report to M.I.9 at the British War Office on the activities of the Rome Organization.

4. Since (as I mentioned Friday) the Army has asked for an early answer, I very much appreciate your having already got this underway.

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[redacted]
J. Kenneth McDonald

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